

Fall 2019

098:444 Seminar on East Asian Societies

MW4: 1:10pm-2:30pm (HH-B5)

Instructor: Satoru Saito

Office: Scott Hall, Room 338

Office Hours: MW 11:00am-12:50pm

E-mail: ssaito@alc.rutgers.edu

Course Description

In this course we will examine the major social and cultural issues of contemporary East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) from the nineteenth century to the present, such as East Asian modernity, notion of love, colonial identity, memories of war, and contemporary popular culture. These issues will be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives including literary analysis, visual studies, social history, women's and gender studies, and global studies, and a comparative understanding of the three cultures will be encouraged. The course will also provide a systematic introduction to the research process and equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand major issues in the large context of East Asian culture and societies.

Although no knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean language is required, this course assumes that you have a basic familiarity with at least one of the three countries we will focus on in this course.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- 1) explain the nuances of major social and cultural issues in modern East Asia
- 2) identify how arguments are constructed in different disciplines and assess the validity or limitations of such arguments
- 3) formulate their own research question, devise a research plan, take advantage of current scholarships, and make critical approaches to major issues in East Asian societies
- 4) communicate their research findings in writing and orally in a mode appropriate to their area of inquiry and their target audience

The course meets the following Core Curriculum goals:

III: Cognitive Skills and Processes

A: Writing and Communication

s. (s1) Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.

(s2) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision.

t. Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or

area of inquiry.

u. Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly.

v. Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

C: Information Technology and Research

y. Employ current technologies to access information, to conduct research, and to communicate findings.

z. Analyze and critically assess information from traditional and emergent technologies.

The course also meets the following departmental learning goals for Chinese (165), Japanese (565), and Korean (574) majors:

Majors will be able to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the literature and culture of one or more East Asian countries (China, Japan, Korea); effectively use tools (reference works, etc.) and technology appropriate to learning an East Asian language; and, analyze issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities and social sciences following an interdisciplinary approach.

Course Requirements

- 1) Regular class attendance and active participation, including during group work.
- 2) 4 Online Responses (2 for Unit I, 1 for Units II and III, total of 4 responses; 250-300 words in length): Students are asked to post their impressions of assigned readings/viewings before class (due at 9pm before class date) on Sakai Forum. Other students are expected to read the responses before coming to class. Students who posted a response may be asked to discuss their response in class. Students must sign up in advance for the session for which they are responsible (sign up for Unit I: 9/11; Unit II: 10/9; Unit III: 10/30).
- 3) Midterm Paper (5 pages double-spaced): students are asked to write a midterm paper after Unit I. The paper must compare two works (from different sessions) and discuss the cultural, historical, or theoretical issues that were covered in the unit. There is no additional research necessary for this paper. After the paper is returned, students may make revisions and resubmit the paper to improve the grade (but only after consulting with the instructor).
- 4) Final Paper (10-12 pages double-spaced): A culmination of the course, a 10-12 page research paper on a particular aspect of modern East Asia, will allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question, gather, and evaluate relevant information, develop and sustain an argument, and communicate their findings orally and in written form in a mode appropriate to their chosen area of inquiry.

5) Presentation (8-10 minutes): during the last 4 classes of the semester, students are asked to give an oral presentation on the findings they have made for the research paper. The presentation should use some form of visual aid (PowerPoint, PDF file, etc.), which should be submitted to the instructor after the presentation. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. Attendance for all presentations and participation in the Q&A session are part of your presentation grade.

Grading

Class attendance and participation	10%
Online Posts (4 postings, 250-350 words each)	20% (5%x4)
Midterm paper (5 pages double spaced; resubmission allowed)	20%
Final paper (10-12 pages double spaced)	40%
8-10 minute presentation on research paper	10%

Note on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the highest level of academic integrity in this class. Violations include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. For details, please see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>. I will also be glad to discuss with you any concerns or questions you have on this issue.

A special note on plagiarism: Please note that ignorance of the citation practice is not a mitigating circumstance for plagiarism. Anyone who needs assistance in academic writing should contact the writing program (<http://wp.rutgers.edu/tutoring/writingcenters>).

Note on Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) about accommodations.

Note on absences

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Reading Materials:

All required readings will be posted on sakai. Some materials, such as DVDs, may be placed on reserves at Alexander Library for your reference.

Tentative Course Schedule (will be updated periodically)

9/4 Introduction

UNIT I: Negotiating with the West: Class, Gender, and Modernity

9/9 Historical & Methodological Overview

Goldman & Gordon, *Historical Perspectives on Contemporary East Asia*,
 “Chronologies,” pp. 323-328
 Miller, *Modern East Asia*, pp. 3-22
 Holcombe, *A History of East Asia*, pp. 190-229

9/11 Historical & Methodological Overview cont’d

In-class Screening Film: Mizoguchi Kenji, *Sisters of the Gion*
 Holcombe, *A History of East Asia*, pp. 230-254 (see 9/9 folder)
 Fukuzawa Yukichi, “Leaving Asia”

9/16 Case Study: *Sisters of the Gion*

The Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature, pp. 7-18

Online Response #1

9/18 Modernity, Class, and Education I (Japan)

Fukuzawa Yukichi, “An Encouragement of Learning” (excerpt)
 Futabatei Shimei, *Ukigumo* (excerpts), pp. 203-222
 ***pp. 321-356 are also included in the file, but they should be
 considered as additional research material.
 Shimazaki Tôson, *The Broken Commandment* (excerpts)

Online Response #2

9/23 Love and the West

Tayam Katai, *Futon*, pp. 35-96
 Suzuki, *Narrating the Self*, pp. 74-76 (mandatory), 79-88 (stated as
 optional, but please make sure to skim through it)

Online Response #3

9/25 Modernity, Class, and Education II (China)

Lu Xun, “Madman’s Diary,” pp. 7-18
 Lu Xun, “My Old Home,” pp. 54-64
 Lu Xun, “Medicine,” pp. 25-33 (labeled as optional, but it is required)

Online Response #4

- 9/30 “Development” of Naturalism; Chinese Examples
 Ding Ling “Ms. Sophie’s Diary,” pp. 13-64
 Yu Dafu, “Sinking,” pp. 31-55
 Mao Dun, “Creation,” pp. 5-35

Online Response #5

- 10/2 Korea and Colonial Modernity
 Yi Kwangsu, *Heartless* (excerpts), pp. 1-15
 Kim Tongin, “Potatoes,” pp. 13-20
 Seth, *A Concise History of Modern Korea*, pp. 1-8
 Eckert, “Korea’s Transition to Modernity,” pp. 119-132

Online Response #6

- 10/7 Korea and Colonial Modernity, cont'd
 Yi T'aejun, “Crows,” pp. 21-34
 Yi Sang, “Wings,” pp. 65-84
 Eckert, “Korea’s Transition to Modernity,” pp. 132-139 (see 10/2 Folder)
 Jeong, *Crisis of Gender and the Nation in Korean Literature and Cinema*, pp. 1-31

Online Response #7

- 10/9 Discussion

UNIT II: War and Postwar in East Asia

- 10/14 Chinese History of War and Revolution
 In-class Screening Film: Chen Kaige, *Farewell My Concubine*

Midterm Paper Due (submit physical copy in class)

- 10/16 Chinese History of War and Revolution, cont'd
 In-class Screening Film: Chen Kaige, *Farewell My Concubine*
 Holcombe, *A History of East Asia*, pp. 255-277 (see 9/11 folder)
 Mitter, *Modern China*, pp. 39-70

- 10/21 Chinese History of War and Revolution, cont'd
 Film: Zhang Yimou, *To Live*

Online Response #8

- 10/23 Narrating the Traumas of War
 John Dower, “Three Narratives of Our Humanity,” pp. 63-96 (read closely from pp. 63-71 and sections marked in brackets; skim the rest)

- “Exposing the Rape of Nanking” (From "The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II" by Iris Chang):
<http://www.newsweek.com/exposing-rape-nanking-170890> (you will have to cut and paste this address; clicking it won't work)
- Entenmann, 'The Rape Of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust Of World War II':
<https://networks.h-net.org/node/22055/reviews/22093/entenmann-chang-rape-nanking-forgotten-holocaust-world-war-ii> (you will have to cut and paste this address; clicking it won't work)
- David Askew, “New Research on the Nanjing Incident”
<http://apjff.org/-David-Askew/1729/article.html> (read “Introduction” and “Conclusion” carefully and skim the rest)
- Mariko Oi, “What Japanese history lessons leave out”:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-21226068> (skim)
- Clips from *The Flowers of War* (2011)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgPFNQqWh7A&t=12s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdjdmcUKMec> (film about the Rape of Nanking, warning: graphic scenes)
- Clips from *Black Rain* (1989)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47d-3W45iWo&t=241s> (film about Hiroshima atomic bomb and aftermath, warning: graphic scenes; watch to 11:25)

Online Response #9

- 10/28 Postwar Society and Haunting of War
 Film: Ozu Yasujirō, *Tokyo Story*
 Howell, “Society and Politics from Transwar through Postwar Japan,” pp. 272-296

Online Response #10

Resubmission of Midterm Paper Due (must submit both original graded paper and revised paper in class)

- 10/30 Representing Tradition, Representing Culture
 Film: Im Kwon-taek, *Sopyonje*
 Eckert, “Korea’s Transition to Modernity,” pp. 139-154
 Choi, “The Politics of Gender, Aestheticism, and Cultural Nationalism in *Sopyonje* and *The Genealogy*,” pp. 107-133 (read pp. 107-121 closely, skim the rest)

Online Response #11

- 11/4 Discussion

UNIT III: Contemporary East Asia and Pop Culture (Still Needs to be Finalized)

11/6 Japanese Pop Stars: From Matsuda Seiko to Baby Metal

Matsuda Seiko

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUaj_kRYqWY (Japanese top hits show)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRoT5m2X5mc>

Onyanko Club

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSm_u6uI1d8

Morning Musume

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbZzBe0tgto>

Kyary Pamyu Pamyu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzC4hFK5P3g>

Hatsune Miku

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhl5afLEKdo>

<https://spinditty.com/genres/My-Top-10-Favorite-Hatsune-Miku-Songs> (check out some songs here)

Babymetal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cirhQ8iLdbw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK3NMZAUKGw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTEYUFgLveY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxIDscwhvv8&index=5&list=RD1iOLICityKY> (Japanese show about the band's popularity in the world)

Miller, *Modern East Asia*, pp. 186-204

Yanagi, "Pop Idols and the Asian Identity," pp. 309-326.

Craig, "'Kawaii': Hello Kitty and Japanese Cute," in *Cool Japan*, pp. 93-108.

Online Response #12

11/11 Girls and Women in Contemporary East Asia

Yoshimoto Banana, "Asleep," pp. 105-177

Xi Xi, "A Woman Like Me," pp. 303-313

O Chonghui, "Wayfarer," pp. 329-344

Online Response #13

Second Short Paper Due (submit physical copy in class)

11/13 The World of Otaku

Train Man (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ERSlh78Te8>; up to around 25:30)

Neon Genesis Evangelion Episode 1 (search online)

FLCL (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhUyc6Tsclo>)

Azuma, *Database Animals*, pp. 3-24

Online Response #14

11/18 Korean Wave

Beng Huat and Iwabuchi, eds. *East Asian Pop Culture*, pp. 1-12.

Drama: *Winter Sonata*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRU4IR3l6hY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6FhoJkfbU4>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/30/AR2006083002985.html> (article on *Winter Sonata* craze in Japan)

Film: *My Sassy Girl*

Online Response #15

11/20 Discussions/Review

11/25 Make-up Day

11/27 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

12/2 Student Presentations

12/4 Student Presentations

12/9 Student Presentations

12/11 Student Presentations

*****FINAL PAPER** due by noon on Wednesday, December 18 via Sakai Dropbox